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An Egan

on the

*Aralia Spinosa*.



PRIOLEAU

To: Thomas Gumball Prioleau  
Charleston S.C. 1805

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Nov. 1  
1753.

An  
Inaugural Essay.  
For  
the Degree,  
of  
Doctor of Medicine,  
Submitted  
To the Examination  
of  
John McDowell LL.D. Provost,  
The  
Trustees and Medical Professors  
of the  
University of Pennsylvania.  
By  
Thomas Pinckney Pinckney PROBLEAU  
&  
Charleston South Carolina

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### An Experimental Essay on -.

Perhaps no Country affords a greater opportunity of increasing the material Medicals than the United States of America; these indigenous vegetables are extremely numerous and to the lovers of natural history the investigation must afford both amusement and instruction independent of the benefit which will result to Mankind at Large - But few comparatively of these many useful plants have been noticed, the properties of others again are but partially known and even the little knowledge of <sup>most of</sup> them is confined to a particular village or district; among the latter is the *Acacia Spinosa*, which I have chosen for the Subject of the following pages.

The  
Arabia

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Mor

herus -

Species

81

Ca

filiis de

Serrata.

numerous

Habit

inferioris

leaves very glaucous and smooth  
Central axis covered by short hairs  
and the upper part with small  
irregular hair tufts a region with  
whitish pubescence at other regions  
with long hairs without tufts at  
the junction with others. One hand  
full of leaves two sides turned up  
different and both equal to (1)  
and three times longer and of  
color of greenish with small and  
thin smooth petioles and no raphae  
with glaucous veins on  
which are scattered a few small  
tufts of hairs with pointed bristles  
on leaves and a solid stem  
with glaucous and of whitish

The Botanical description of the  
Aralia is here taken from Michaux.

Pentaphylax.

Pentaphylax.

Aralia.

Involucr. umbella - Cal. 5 dentatus 3 mm.  
herm. - Corolla 5 petala - Bassa 5 Thesma.

Species

Spinosus.

Caulis arborescens foliisque spinosis.  
foliis duplicito-pinnatis; foliolis leviter  
serratis; panicula ramosissima umbellis  
numerosis -

Habitat in Sylvis fertilibus Carolinae  
inferioris et Minotauribus -

The area  
range  
be found  
principal  
swamps  
marshy  
Prickly  
the mire  
Devils  
Genus  
Atta being  
feeding for  
often he  
error also  
appearance  
the bottom  
pushed  
are some  
those of  
to the head  
with sand

through swampy ground and  
was evidently the same direction  
whereas some of sand was seen.

On the way to the  
bottom of the valley

The Arabia Spinosas has a very extensive range stretching from Lat. 32° to 57° is to be found in rich soil and on the principally on the banks of rivers and swamps - The popular and vulgar names of it in the Southern States are Prickly ash, Subtles lace &c and in the Middle states also Prickly ash, Devil's Club, no name &c - In consequence of the common name Prickly ash being also given to the *Xanthoxylon febrifolium*, this and the Arabia have often been mistaken for each other, the error also arises from the similarity general appearance of the two plants, but by the botanist they are immediately distinguished. The Spines of the Arabia S. are much more numerous than those of the *Xanthoxylon f.* It grows to the height of from 8 to 20 feet, does not send off branches until near its

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summit and then in clusters - this root  
run at right angles from the Canals  
extending three or four feet superficially  
and in an horizontal direction -

### Chemical Analysis.

To an infusion of the inner bark  
of the root, I added a little alkali,  
immediately a coagulation took place,  
the alkali uniting to the water and  
separating from it the gummy matter  
which was held in solution. The  
fluid was then filtered, to some of  
which water was added and no change  
took place or no sediment was precipitated  
which would have occurred had any  
resinous particle been held in the solution.

Upon evaporating a decoction made  
from the inner bark of the root, I  
obtained a considerable quantity of a  
dark extract of an agreeable odour and  
pleasant taste - On a small quantity

Time as intended as well and the most  
recent cut of Agar Agar so far  
manufactured very much a moist powder,  
so we could interpret it as the  
lightest material

Afterwards it is washed and the  
water dried a good time at a  
moderate temperature is performed  
and then with a further bath of  
the same water and a further  
wash with cold water and then dried  
again and again until the water  
is clear and transparent no more does  
it take about half an hour to do  
this and the last bath water was  
colored with a few drops of iodine

and it had come off very  
readily leaving a white and a  
cleaner surface and of course this  
process repeats itself - after several

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of this extract I added some alkahol  
and suffered it to remain for twenty  
four hours, at the end of which time  
no other change had taken place than  
the alkahol having extracted a little of  
the coloring matter, the extract remained  
in the same state as when placed in the  
alkahol, —

To another portion of the extract -  
equal in weight to the former I added  
as much water as I had done alkahol  
in the preceding experiment, in a few  
minutes the whole of the extract was  
dissolved leaving no sediment. Upon  
adding alkahol to this solution the  
gummos matter was immediately se-  
parated and floated in the mixture.

From these experiments it appears  
that in the root very little if any re-  
siduous matter resides, and a considerable  
quantity of a gummos substance —



It suspends very little of the astringent  
or bitter principle, for upon adding either  
to the infusion or decoction, the oxy Sulphur  
or Iron or the Acetite of Lead, no change  
in the colour was produced, neither was  
any precipitate evident.

### §. Effects on the Human System.

Having prepared a saturated infusion of  
upon the inner bark of the root of the Acanthus.  
two hours after a slight breakfast, I took  
object. a wineglassful, this induced no other ef-  
fect than a slight nausea with some  
little increase and fullness of the pulse,  
in 10 minutes, after taking the first glassful  
I took another which induced great nausea  
and slight vomiting with an increase of  
palpitation and considerable sensations of acidity  
about the fauces, the pulse still con-  
tinued to rise and became more full and  
soft, great heat of skin and espious perspi-  
ration

beginning of 1863 we were at  
the fort and the commandant  
ordered me to recruit for the  
regiment. But I desired it to act as  
a recruiting station, and when I  
had a sufficient number, I  
recruited no more. I  
met with great difficulty in  
recruiting, and I was compelled to  
act as a recruiting agent, and  
I did so, but I did not do  
it with much success. I  
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recruiting, and I was compelled to  
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act as a recruiting agent, and  
I did so, but I did not do

peristaltic movements came on - in 10 minutes  
after I took another glassful which induced  
free vomiting, skin warm, some  
headache and continuance of peristaltic  
movements. In 10 minutes after the last glassful  
I again took another and vomited very  
freely, to satisfy the operator I now drank  
plenty of warm water and completely  
evacuated the contents of my stomach  
at the same time throwing up some  
bile - The nausea induced by the me-  
dicine for continued for several hours  
but only slightly - At 10 o'clock one hour  
after taking the first dose it began to  
operate as a cathartic and for some  
time operated freely -

The pulse was most remarkably af-  
fected, at first highly stimulated and after  
a few minutes much depressed - My  
friend Miss Lane, The Bride & Helen Hurlick  
attended



attended to it during the operations -

at the time I took the first dose  
my pulse beat 84 strokes in a minute -

2 minutes 9. 10. 11. 20. 28. 30. 38. 40. 48. 50. 60.  
Strokes 86. 88. 92. 108. 96. 92. 88. 84. 78. 75. 76.

85. 70. 75. 76. 78. 80. at which it continued until  
12 o'clock and then gradually rose to 84 -

1/2

o'clock two hours after a slight breakfast I took  
1/2 dr. of the powdered bark of the root of

the Arabic. L - in 8 minutes after taking it  
I experienced great nausea, increased  
secretion of saliva and irritability about  
the fancies: vomiting then came on at-  
tended with heat of skin and copious per-  
piration - The vomiting continued for half  
an hour but the nausea continued slightly  
for two hours - During the operation I  
felt some headache, burning of the eyes,  
and drowsiness, which went off in a few  
minutes -

Chas



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The effects on the pulse were not so great in this as in the preceding experiment, probably owing to the smallness of the quantity, and the almost immediate emesis produced - at the time of taking the powder my pulse beat 84 strokes in a minute in 5 minutes it rose to 96 strokes in a minute, at which it continued for 20 minutes, and then fell to 80, in minutes 28, 34, 43, 60  
strokes 84, 78, 70, 80.

Sept.

At 12 o'clock Three hours after breakfast I took 90 grs of the extract prepared by evaporating the decoction of the root of the Anadria. This produced some nausea and increased of pulse in 15 minutes after I again took 90 grs which in a short time induced considerable nausea and slight emesis - At a quarter before 12 o'clock it began to operate as a cathartic and continued operating for three hours - In a few minutes after



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after taking the medicine the pulse  
rose 15 Sticks above the common Standard,  
it continued at this for 20 minutes and  
then fell 10 sticks less than natural  
at which it continued half an hour  
& then rose to the common Standard -

Mr Richard Shielrick & myself <sup>met</sup> upon  
notebook  
the first powder of the root of the Andrographis.  
in a few seconds powerful eructive effects  
were induced and the discharge from the  
nostrils was very considerable, and continued  
for several three hours, - its stimulatory  
properties were very incomparable, the powder  
when employed in this way will be found  
a most valuable specific to the Class of  
Burhiness, being one of the most powerful  
and beweved with the greatest ease -

The following Case communicated  
to me by my friend Mr James Dunne  
McBride, will completely establish its  
merits

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wise lead  
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In our  
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Shawnee  
work in  
rattle snake  
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curative properties of the Arabia S. and likewise tend to show how far emetics may prove serviceable as remedies for the bite of venomous Reptiles.

In August or September 1794 Mr. Tom Scott aged 50 years of Williamsburgh County Slavery while attending to his slaves at work in an indigo field was bitten by a rattle snake (*Crotalus durissus*) a little above the inner ankle - Recollecting that he had heard of the Arabia S. being a celebrated Indian remedy for the bite of Serpents he ordered a decoction of the root to be prepared as soon as possible and to be poured into him until he should vomit freely before the decoction could be prepared he was deprived of Speech, his respiration difficult & he to all appearance in the agonies of death; it was not long however before his invacuation were completed with, and vomiting being induced gave ten

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and it is evident that the ground  
is covered with a thin layer of soil  
and water runs off rather rapidly  
and with a great deal of noise  
at first appearance. We were at  
Baldwin's Ranch and I had the  
privilege of getting off my bicycle  
and walking for a mile or more  
over a bed of gravel, sand, and  
dust. This is the soil which  
is characteristic of the desert. It is  
difficult to walk upon and  
can be passed over by a horse  
without getting his feet stuck  
in the mud. The soil is very  
dry and dusty and the plants  
are few and small.

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temporary relief, still he made signs of  
a continuance of the remedy, which operated  
very freely as an emetic, cathartick & sudor-  
ifacient and in forty eight hours from the  
time he was bitten by the use of this me-  
dicum he was left in a convalescent  
state from which he soon recovered.

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In June 1801 Mr. Daniel Carter of  
Clarendon County S. Carolina - was bitten  
by a cattle snake; in a short time he was  
thrown into a situation similar to that  
of Mr. Scott but by having immediate re-  
course to the same remedy, he experienced  
in a short time similar good effects -

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A watery infusion of the inner bark  
a root of the Quercus s. is very generally  
employed as a remedy for the intermit-  
tents of the negroes in the middle and  
lower country of S. Carolina. From the  
certainty of its operation and facility  
with which it can be prepared it is

worthy

and in the following pages I have  
had a few words about it in detail, and  
will say more about it in the hope  
that you will get interested and will  
contribute a few lines or two.  
Please do so - we are very glad

of what comes in, and it  
will be much appreciated if you  
will contribute in whatever way you  
can. It would interest a good many  
of the many people who are working  
on this subject at present and it would  
help along considerably if there were  
a good many more contributions.  
I have been a student all of my  
life and my pleasure and happiness  
consistently arises in trying to find  
out new and interesting facts and  
getting the interests of others and  
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rated 12 hours by purges very decidedly  
emetic cathartics and diaphoretic, and  
being given previous to the bark renders  
it more certain in its operation

When given diluted with a decoction to  
its emetic operation the infusion in doses  
of a wineglassful given every 10 or 15 minutes  
will be found the most certain - or  
the bounces of the root bark of the root in  
doses of from 8 to 10 - In many cases it  
may be substituted for Opium, it affords  
gentle stimulus to the stomach, is mild in  
its operation & by far more pleasant to  
take than any emetic we are acquainted  
with - The chief Operation of the Street  
& Cathartics and if given with that view  
in doses of 8 to 10 will not doubt be  
found very beneficial -

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and you will be happy to receive  
a few words which you will  
not be of interest to tell us  
about our way of the world  
and country and a few good  
designed good

For the imperfection of this essay, I shall  
make no apology; it has been the offspring  
of necessity not of choice; the subject is  
very interesting and had but little time and  
opportunity offered I should have made  
a further investigation, as ~~this~~ is  
I must now submit it to the gamma-  
tors and rely upon the candor of the  
Professors for their decision - Of them I  
must request the acceptance of my un-  
signed blank, and sincere acknowledgement  
for the improvement & instruction I have  
received at their hand. I set an incorne-  
able value on their labours and trust they  
will always enjoy that sweetest of all re-  
ward - the applause of their own hearts -

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